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ROCHFORD  
RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH

(W. J. MOFFAT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR

1956

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W. H. HOULDERSHAW, LTD., 49-53, LONDON ROAD  
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.



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**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

*Chairman :* Councillor W. Robertson, M.P.S.

*Vice Chairman :* Councillor T. W. Bysouth.

Together with all other members of the Council excepting those  
not desirous of serving on the Committee.

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**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT****Staff**

*Medical Officer of Health :* W. J. Moffat, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(also Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Officer,  
South East Essex, Essex County Council).

*Chief Public Health Inspector :* H. Jepson, M.A.P.H.I. (also  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Petroleum Inspector, etc.).

*Assistant Public Health Inspector :* F. J. Orrigan, M.A.P.H.I.,  
from February, 1956 (Appointment vacant from August, 1955).

*Clerk and Typist :* Mrs. Z. Sargent.



## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ROCHFORD.

November, 1957.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rochford Rural  
District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions in the Rural District for the year 1956.

The death rate continued to be low, while the birth rate maintained the level of the past few years. The incidence of infectious disease was low during the year. The introduction of Poliomyelitis Vaccine in small quantities in the early months of the year was a notable landmark on the road towards what may prove to be as successful a measure in the control of this disease as immunisation has shown itself in the case of diphtheria.

The population of the District continued to increase by the movement inwards of newcomers to live in the new privately built houses. There was also a continuing increase in the number of families living in caravans. There were altogether 290 families at the end of 1956, whose permanent homes were caravans stationed on the six sites licensed for all the year round occupation. Many were applicants for rehousing by this or other Councils. These were mainly families with young children, who, having temporarily sought separate accommodation, had soon realised the difficulties such cramped living conditions produce in inclement weather and other adverse conditions. It would seem that the time has now arrived when some standards of overcrowding for caravans occupied all the year round should be introduced.

While the proportion of unmade to made-up roads in the District decreases slowly, this result is only due to the building of new roads in new housing estates. It is, unfortunately, still not possible to record the making up of any unmade roads.



In the legislative field, the main event in 1956 was the coming into operation of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations made thereunder. Under Regulation 7 of the Regulations which prohibits the employment of outworkers in food businesses, objection was made by a local pickle manufacturer that such a prohibition would interfere with the peeling of onions. In so far as this product is concerned, the operation of Regulation 7 has been successively postponed and the matter remains unresolved at present. Also in the field of food hygiene, the Council adopted Byelaws for Private Slaughterhouses and, in their interpretation of these, had regard to the White Paper on Slaughterhouse Policy and its implications on the future of the existing slaughterhouses in the District.

The Council's programme for dealing with unfit houses began to speed up during the year. One important factor in this was the acceptance of the occupiers of unfit houses as priority cases for rehousing by the Housing Committee. In implementing this policy, the Committee can avail themselves of the subsidy which is available for this purpose.

During the year, tanks for the storage of shellfish prior to export to France were installed near the River Crouch. The French authorities were insistent that satisfactory certificates of bacteriological purity of the water in which the shellfish were kept should be furnished with each consignment. In co-operation with the Burnham-on-Crouch Fisheries Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, a method of periodic sampling of the water in the River and of the shellfish in the tanks, was evolved to satisfy the French government's requirements.

Although several cases of aged and chronic sick persons were investigated as to whether action would have to be taken to secure a removal to hospital or hostel under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1947, no such action was required. Gentle but persistent persuasion was generally effective in leading the sometimes recalcitrant to accept help from available resources. Of these resources a special tribute is due to the members of the Home Help Service, who deal with these cases and who, in their work in this field show a true sense of vocation.

The sudden death of the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor W. Robertson, M.P.S., which took place on 7th April, 1957 was a great loss. Although he had been Chairman of the Committee for only two years, he had previously been Vice

Chairman and his interest in health matters had been shown in other directions. He was a representative of this Council on the South-East Essex Area Health Committee and was Vice Chairman of the South-East Essex Tuberculosis Care Association.

I am grateful to the Council for their continued support during the year, and as always indebted to Mr. H. Jepson, Chief Public Health Inspector for the ready assistance which is always forthcoming.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. MOFFAT.

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36,080
Registrar General's estimate of Resident population at mid-year, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,650
Number of Habitable Houses according to Rate Books at 31st December, 1956	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,590

						£	s.	d.
*Rateable Value at 31st March, 1956	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	212,807	0	0
*Product of a Penny Rate at 31st March, 1956	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	929	17	7

\*These figures are based on the property valuations which became operative subsequent to the revaluations which took place under the Rating and Valuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1956, and which came into effect on 1st April, 1956.

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## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There has been no substantial change in the social conditions of the District. The rapid rate of private house building in certain localities, which has been such a noticeable feature of the previous three years or so has continued.

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## VITAL STATISTICS

In the table on page 8 will be found certain extracts relating to population, births and deaths of residents of the Rochford Rural District for the post-war years up to 1956 inclusive.

## Deaths

### (a) Ages at Death

The various ages at which the 309 deaths occurred were as follows :—

Age at Death					Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
1 and under 5	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
5 and under 15	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
15 and under 25	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
25 and under 45	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
45 and under 65	...	...	...	...	29	20	49
65 and under 75	...	...	...	...	45	35	80
75 and upwards	...	...	...	...	67	94	161
Totals ... ..					150	159	309

The deaths of persons in the age group 75 years and upwards accounted for 52.1 per cent of the total, the highest proportion so far recorded for this group. There were four deaths of infants under 1 year old, one male and three female, all of whom were legitimate. All of these infant deaths occurred in the first week of life.



**(b) Causes of Death**

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ... ..	1	1	2
Syphilitic Disease ... ..	—	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	6	5	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	10	1	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ... ..	—	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ... ..	—	2	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	12	19	31
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	1	—	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	17	25	42
Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	38	21	59
Hypertension with heart disease ...	10	5	15
Other heart disease ... ..	15	29	44
Other circulatory disease ... ..	4	6	10
Influenza ... ..	—	2	2
Pneumonia ... ..	6	10	16
Bronchitis ... ..	6	5	11
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	4	2	6
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	11	21
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	2	—	2
All other accidents ... ..	2	4	6
Suicide ... ..	—	1	1
Homicide and operations of War ...	2	1	3
Totals	150	159	309

The principal cause of death was again, as in the immediately preceding years, disease of the heart and circulatory system. This group of diseases accounted for 42 per cent of all deaths. This is the highest proportion of the total deaths so far recorded in any year.

**Births**

The total of 332 births to residents of the District during 1956 was comprised as follows :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Total ... ..	154	178
Legitimate ... ..	149	175
Illegitimate ... ..	5	3

The illegitimate births were five more than in the previous year, giving a rate of 2.4 per cent. There were eight still births, three males and five females. One of the latter was illegitimate.

TABLE I.  
Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Post-war years to 1956.

Year	Estimated mid-year Population	Births (Nett)		Deaths (Nett)					
		Under 1 year of age		At all ages				Rate, England and Wales	
		Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 "related" births.	Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Standardised Death Rate		
1946	16,830	317	18.8	50.5	16	42.9	245	14.6	11.5
1947	17,480	380	21.1	26.3	10	41.4	255	14.5	12.0
1948	18,550	330	17.8	15.2	5	33.9	218	11.8	10.8
1949	18,700	323	17.3	12.4	4	32.4	234	12.5	11.7
1950	19,000	261	13.7*(15.1)	38.5	9	29.6	255	13.4	11.6
1951	19,010	241	12.7*(13.8)	20.8	5	29.7	227	11.8	12.5
1952	19,310	290	15.0*(16.4)	13.8	4	27.6	242	13.0	11.3
1953	19,540	271	13.9*(15.3)	22.1	6	26.8	245	12.5	11.4
1954	20,150	267	13.3*(14.6)	14.9	4	25.4	274	13.6	11.3
1955	21,310	317	14.9*(16.4)	12.3	4	24.9	248	11.6	11.7
1956	22,650	332	14.1*(14.9)	12.0	4	23.8	309	13.6	11.7†

†Provisional.

‡No Area Comparability Factor available for these years.

\*The figures in brackets represent the birth rate when allowance is made for the differing age and sex distribution of the population of the District as compared with that of England and Wales as a whole.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

**Public Health Officers**—see page 1.

### Committees of the Council

The undermentioned standing committees of the Council have to do directly or indirectly with public health matters :—

Public Health	Pleasure Grounds
Sewerage	Town Planning and Plans
Housing	Civil Defence

### Representation of the Council on Other Bodies

The Council is represented on the following committees or bodies which are concerned to a greater or lesser degree with public health matters.

Rural District Councils Association—	two members.
South-East Essex Health Area Sub-Committee—	three members.
South-East Essex Tuberculosis Care Association—	one member.
Essex Boroughs and District Councils Association—	two members.
East Central Essex Area Planning Sub-Committee—	two members.
South-East Essex Divisional Executive for Education—	three members.

### Local Health Authority Services

With the opening by the Essex County Council during the year of a newly built Health Services Clinic at Great Wakering, the facilities for the services under Part III of the National Health Service Act were greatly improved and extended in that part of the District. The following services are provided in the Rochford Rural District by the Local Health Authority, i.e. the Essex County Council :—

**Child Welfare Centres**

Rochford Health Services Clinic	Mondays p.m.
Gt. Wakering Health Services Clinic ... ..	Thursdays p.m.
Hockley—Public Hall ...	Tuesdays p.m.
Hullbridge — Congregational Church Hall ... ..	1st and 3rd Wednesdays p.m.
Canewdon—Public Hall ...	2nd Tuesday p.m.
Foulness—The Hut ... ..	3rd Wednesday p.m.

**Ante-Natal Clinics**

Rochford Health Services Clinic	Wednesdays p.m.
Gt. Wakering Health Services Clinic ... .. (For hospital booked cases)	1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays a.m.
Rochford Health Services Clinic	2nd and 4th Fridays p.m.

**School and Immunisation Clinics**

Rochford Health Services Clinic	Tuesdays a.m.
Gt. Wakering Health Services Clinic ... ..	Fridays a.m.
Hockley—Public Hall ... ..	2nd and 4th Wednesdays a.m.

At the Rochford and Great Wakering Health Services Clinics, the Eye Specialist, Dentist and Speech Therapist see children by appointment.

**Home Nursing and Midwifery**

The following undertake the combined duties of midwifery and home nursing :—

Miss D. M. Bedding, 296a, Ashingdon Road, Rochford.  
 Mrs. M. E. Hurrell, 80, Ashingdon Road, Rochford.  
 Mrs. E. Kirton, 15, Church End, Foulness.  
 Miss O. L. Moore, Nurses' Home, High Street,  
 Great Wakering.  
 Mrs. J. M. Rose, 48, Broadlands Road, Hockley.  
 Mrs. M. C. Toal, 296, Ashingdon Road, Rochford.

The undermentioned carry out home nursing duties :—

Miss A. Norman, 2, Coniston Villas, Hullbridge.  
 Mr. D. Read, 19, Broadlands Avenue, Hockley.



## Health Visiting

Health Visitors are based on the two Health Services Clinics in the District, on 48, Broadlands Road, Hockley (temporarily) whilst the Health Visitor serving Hullbridge is based on Rayleigh Clinic.

## Home Helps

The Home Help Service is maintained by the employment of part-time Domestic Helps, whose services are provided, on medical recommendation, whenever necessary.

## Other Services

Among other facilities made available by the Local Health Authority are the provision of convalescence for patients not requiring medical or nursing care, the loan of sick room equipment for the home nursing of patients and the provision of additional nourishment and garden shelters, if required, for tuberculous patients.

The ambulance services in the County are centrally administered, as are also the County Council's Mental Health Services.

## Hospital Services

The hospital services available locally to residents of the District continued on similar lines to those described in former years, i.e. the general hospitals in Southend and Rochford, the latter also providing maternity services, Westcliff Hospital for cases of infectious disease and Lancaster House Chest Clinic, Southend.

## Laboratory Services

The bacteriological examinations of water supplies, milk, ice cream, and the like was carried out as in previous years, by the Medical Director of the Westcliff Laboratory, Public Health Laboratory Services.

Use was also made of the facilities of the Counties Public Health Laboratories when the occasion arose for the complete, i.e. chemical and bacteriological analysis of water samples.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

As will be seen from the table on page 13 the incidence of notifiable infectious disease, other than tuberculosis, was low during the year.

## Tuberculosis

The number of new cases notified for the first time during the year was eight, which figure is the lowest so far recorded, but the number of patients already suffering from the disease on transfer into the District continued to show a steady increase. There were nineteen transferred cases during 1956. The additions to the Tuberculosis Register in 1956 were made up as follows :—

Age	New Notifications				Transfers into the district			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10 ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20 ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20 — 25 ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 — 35 ... ..	1	—	—	—	7	3	—	—
35 — 45 ... ..	—	—	1	—	1	5	—	—
45 — 55 ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 — 65 ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	6	—	2	—	11	8	—	—

There was one death of a tuberculosis patient, a male, who died from the respiratory form of the disease. During the year, the names of eighteen persons were removed from the Tuberculosis Register. Nine of these had recovered from the disease and nine others, in whom the disease still remained active or quiescent had gone to live in other districts. At the end of the year there were 120 names on the Tuberculosis Register as compared with 118 at 1st January, 1956.

These cases were classified as follows :—

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1st January, 1956	58	46	2	12
31st December, 1956	63	41	5	11

## OCCURRENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1956 (EXCLUSIVE OF TUBERCULOSIS)

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	AGE GROUPS										Under 1
		1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 or over
Scarlet Fever ...	30	—	2	4	—	22	1	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	16	1	3	—	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	7	2	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	92	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	67	15	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—
Food poisoning ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total	157	3	6	5	4	34	3	12	69	17	1	2

## HOUSING

### Unfit Houses

In 1956, in continuation of their programme for dealing with unfit houses, the Council made Demolition Orders in respect of 26 houses and Closing Orders on a further three. Six houses were demolished during the year and 46 were repaired. In 40 cases repair was achieved by informal action and in the remaining six cases, recourse to formal action was necessary.

### New House Building

The rapid rate of new building in the District continued undiminished during 1956. The Council completed 48 new houses, while 365 were completed for private owners. At the end of the year there were under construction 112 houses for the Council and 355 for private developers.

### Council Owned Houses

At 31st December, 1956 the Council owned 933 dwellings.

### Housing Improvements

During the year, 19 applications involving 30 dwellings were approved by the Council for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949. Improvements were completed during the year by this procedure, on 26 properties.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY

#### Main Water Supplies

Frequent samples of the raw water supplies and of the main water as supplied to consumers, are taken by the statutory water undertakers, the Southend Waterworks Company, for examination in their own laboratory. Copies of the results of these analyses are furnished to the Council. In addition, from time to time, samples are submitted by the Company, and also by the Council to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examination. A copy of a report from the Counties Public Health Laboratories on the chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of a sample of main water in supply, taken from the Company's mains in Great Wakering, and derived from their deep well there, is set out on page 15.

There was no instance of any contamination of the main water supply during the year. The waters in supply are not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action,



The table on page 17 shows, for each of the eleven parishes of the Rochford Rural District, the number of houses therein and the estimated population served by the main water supplies at the end of the year 1956.

### Shallow Well Supplies

Apart from the comparatively few houses which so far have been considered to be beyond reasonable and economic reach of the water mains, and which are dependent on shallow wells for their supplies, there remained at the end of the year the following house properties on the line of the existing water mains, which still relied on shallow wells for their supply.

Great Wakering	...	...	4	Rochford	...	...	3
Barling Magna	...	...	10	Canewdon	...	...	1
Stambridge	...	...	6				

The majority of the above properties are owner occupied, and in such cases the owners have been reluctant to connect to the main water supply because of the expense involved and the lack, up to the present, of a main sewer to serve their properties.

### WATER ANALYSIS

Report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories on a sample taken from the mains of the Southend Waterworks Company at Great Wakering, on 13th March, 1956.

#### Chemical results in parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Bright with very few mineral particles
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	less than 3
Colour	...	...	...	...	3
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	...	8.6
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	Absent
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	1530
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	960
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	340
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	290
Hardness : Total	...	...	...	...	30
Carbonate	...	...	...	...	30
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.4
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.49
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.033
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.25
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	0.02
Metals : Iron	...	...	...	...	less than 0.03
Other metals	...	...	...	...	Absent

### Bacteriological Results

No. of Colonies developing on  
Agar :

1 day at 37°C.            0 per ml.

2 days at 37°C.           0 per ml.

	<i>Present</i> <i>in</i>	<i>Absent</i> <i>from</i>	<i>Probable</i> <i>number</i>
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes	—	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Reaction	—	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	—	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.

This sample is practically bright and clear in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is soft in character ; it has a somewhat high but not excessive content of mineral and saline constituents. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes, apart from the content of fluorine (1.9 parts per million) which is higher than that considered most desirable corresponding with other features of this deep well water.

(Signed) ROY C. HOATHER.

23rd March 1956.

# MAIN WATER SUPPLIES

Houses and Population in Each Parish on Main Supply, December 1956.

Parish	Acreage	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	Houses on Main Supply	Estimated Population on Main Supply	Houses Supplied by Standpipe	Estimated Population Supplied by Standpipe
Ashington (including South Fambridge)	2,503	583	1,752	560	1,680	4 + 10*	12 + 25
Barling Magna (including Little Wakering)	2,747	336	993	314	942	9	27
Canewdon ...	6,845	267	687	260	780	6	18
Foulness†	7,235	105	297	105	297	—	—
Great Wakering ...	3,314	952	2,820	939	2,817	—	—
Hawkwell ...	1,408	1,117	3,294	1,114	3,342	1	3
Hockley (including Hullbridge)	3,631	2,024	6,050	2,008	6,024	13	39
Paglesham ...	1,687	113	324	99	297	6	18
Rochford ...	2,988	1,855	6,150	1,820	6,025	21	63
Stambridge...	2,202	162	462	156	454	—	—
Sutton ...	1,520	66	196	66	193	—	—
	36,080	7,580	23,025	7,441	22,851	60 + 10*	180 + 25

\*Council standpipes on roadside. Other standpipes are in curtilage of private properties.

†War Department Mains.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During 1956 the laying of main sewers in Albert Road, York Road and Alexandra Road, all in Hawkwell parish, was completed, and this added approximately 1,400 yards to the total length of sewer in the District. The Hullbridge No. 1 sewerage scheme was nearly completed at the end of the year, and connection to the Rayleigh U.D. system was expected to be completed early in 1957. Other sewerage works carried out in 1956 were the laying of 1,830 yards of 6" sewer from Bramerton Road, to serve Folly Lane and Fountain Lane, Hockley, and the laying of a surface water sewer as a work of emergency, to obviate further flooding in the Anne Boleyn Drive area, Rochford, which had occurred consequent on recent developments of the runways at Southend Airport. In addition, 255 yards of soil and 660 yards of surface water sewers were laid by the Council in Twyford Estate, Great Wakering, which was being developed as a housing site, during the year.

The number of individual new connections made to the main sewerage system during the year were as follows :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Existing Dwellings</i>	<i>New Dwellings</i>
Ashingdon	—	131
Great Wakering	—	5
Hawkwell	5	21
Hockley	2	17
Rochford	1	54
Stambridge	—	2

## PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

The Council gave consideration to the introduction of a weekly refuse collection for the greater part of the District, but, faced with a consequent rate increase of approximately 7d. for this expansion, they ultimately decided to reconsider the matter in a year's time. To meet the ever increasing demand, the staff establishment was increased by two. A Chaseside shovel and scraper was acquired for use on the refuse tip. Otherwise the service continued along the lines previously described. There were at the end of the year, 6,937 houses from which refuse was collected regularly and 688 from which a pail collection was made. The collection of salvage continued and the value of this salvage was £1,311 15s. 6d. In the main, this was derived from the sale of waste paper.



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The table below shows for the year 1956 the number and nature of the inspections made by the Council's officers, together with the number of notices, formal and informal, served under the relevant enactments and as a result of those inspections :—

Nature of Inspection	Inspections	Notices Served	
		Informal	Formal
Camping Sites ... ..	13	—	—
Damage by Pests Act ... ..	73	—	—
Disinfections ... ..	1	—	—
Disinfestations ... ..	12	—	—
Drainage and Cesspools ... ..	119	26	1
Factories Act, 1937 ... ..	19	—	—
Food Premises ... ..	180	8	—
Hairdressers' Byelaws ... ..	2	—	—
House Refuse Removal and Dustbins	41	12	—
Housing and Public Health Acts ...	491	45	2
Houseboats ... ..	24	1	—
Infectious Disease Enquiries ... ..	40	—	—
Knackers Yards ... ..	2	—	—
Licensed Premises ... ..	2	—	—
Miscellaneous ... ..	318	—	—
Movable Dwellings ... ..	29	—	—
Nuisances, Public Health Act ...	98	4	—
Pet Animals Act, 1951 ... ..	2	—	—
Petroleum Acts ... ..	56	—	—
Rehousing Enquiries ... ..	47	—	—
Schools ... ..	14	—	—
Shops Act ... ..	16	—	—
Water Courses ... ..	6	3	1
Water Samples ... ..	4	—	—
Water Supplies ... ..	48	5	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>4</b>

### Factories Act, 1937

In 1956 there were 67 factories and other premises with power and 12 without power. Apart from two instances of want of cleanliness and one of insufficient sanitary accommodation, all remedied on informal representation, no contraventions of the provisions of the Act which are the Council's province were noted during the year. There were 46 outworkers in the District in 1956. All were employed by factories outside the District.

## FOOD

## Meat

The table below details the post-mortem meat inspections carried out in 1956. Compared with the previous year, there was a notable drop in the number of cattle slaughtered in the District (529 as opposed to 889). This was due to one slaughterhouse which formerly had dealt with a considerable number of beasts for a retailer in an adjoining area, ceasing to do so.

**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned  
in whole or in part**

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ... ..	529	3	99	408	1579	—
Number inspected ... ..	529	3	98	400	1579	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	121	2	—	1	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci ... ..	22.87	66.6	—	.24	.19	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	7	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	1.51	—	—	—	.506	—
<i>Cysticerci :</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The five existing slaughterhouses continued to be used regularly throughout the year. In the course of the year 643 visits had to be paid to slaughterhouses. Under the Slaughter of Animals Acts, sixteen licences were granted to slaughtermen during 1956.

## Milk

The District is now an area in which only special designated milks may be sold. The necessary order came into operation on December 6th, 1955.

There is one firm of producer-retailers of milk operating in the District, and registered as such by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. There are also four distributors of milk, operating from two sets of premises. Each purchases bottled milk from distributors licensed in other areas. There are also 26 dealers licensed to sell sterilised milk from their premises, which are mainly general stores. Other licences are held by 11 milk dealers for the sale of pasteurised milk and by a further 5 for tuberculin tested milk. Two supplementary licences are held by distributors with dairies elsewhere, to retail milk inside the District.

## Clean Food Campaigns

At 31st December, 1956, the following premises were engaged in handling food of one kind or another :—

Catering premises	...	27	Licensed premises	...	31
General Stores	...	80	Confectionery	...	20
Poultry Dressing Station	1		Butchers	...	15
Greengrocers	...	14	Fishmongers	...	6
Bakehouses	...	7	Pickle Factory	...	1

As the Essex County Council Act 1933 is operative in the District, the registration of certain food premises under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 does not apply. Under the former Act, only manufacturers and vendors of ice cream are registrable. In 1956, there were no manufacturers, but 65 vendors from premises and 7 vendors from vehicles were registered for the sale of ice cream, and 6 hawkers of food were registered under the Essex County Council Act 1952.

Of 12 samples of ice cream taken in 1956, nine were in Grade I and three in Grade II on the Methylene Blue Test.

The subject of education on food hygiene continued to be approached on an individual rather than a collective basis. It has now become an established routine to check on the efficiency of the

washing-up procedures in catering establishments in the District, by taking swabs for bacteriological examination from crockery and utensils in these establishments. The reported results on these swabs have often proved a surprisingly effective stimulus to better kitchen hygiene. A few small and unsatisfactory catering businesses have been given up of recent years.

### Disposal of Condemned Food

The condemned food surrendered for disposal during the year was comprised as follows :—

Meat (Tinned)	...	16	tins	Preserves	...	...	5	tins	
Meat	...	...	14	lbs.	Soup	...	...	1	tin
Fish (Tinned)	...	2	tins	Milk	...	...	14	tins	
Fish	...	...	65	lbs.	Vegetables	...	...	59	tins
Fruit	...	...	41	tins					

The practice of colouring condemned fresh meat with an approved indelible dye was continued. The meat so treated was then collected from the slaughterhouses for industrial purposes by a contractor.





